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SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that there was in fact a cyclone and that the people in the villages there were affected?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Probably, it is not a major cyclone like the one we had in Tanjore, but only a minor one."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" மாஹி பக்கத்தில் இருக்கக்கூடிய பிரதேசங்களில் இணைப்புக் கிளர்ச்சிகளை ஆதரிக்கின்றவர்களை பயமுறுத்துவதற்காக, மாஹியில் இருக்கக்கூடியவர்கள் கையாட்களையும், குண்டர்களையும், வைத்து பல அநீதிகளைச் செய்யும்படியாகத் தூண்டுவது சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரியுமா ?"

MR. SPEAKER :—" We are in question No. 925."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, in view of the fact that so many villagers have lost their huts, will the Government suggest to the Collector of Malabar to render them immediate help?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Yes, Sir. The Collector has got standing instructions to do the needful to help the distressed."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, in view of the roaring thunder and lightning that took place on 22nd April 1954, 22 houses in Azhikode village alone were levelled to the ground, 36 houses were seriously damaged and some 200 persons have become homeless. Apart from these, some 300 coconut trees have fallen and a weaving factory has been smashed to the ground . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" We are in question hour. The hon. Member is giving detailed information . . ."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" I am putting a question, Sir. Sir, in view of the serious damage that has occurred, will the Hon. Minister see that immediately some relief is rushed to the village?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, as I said already, there is no information available here. I shall take every step to see that necessary relief is given."

Eye disease in Blathur, Irukkur firka, North Malabar.

* 926 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation or report quite recently regarding the attack of a peculiar eye-disease in the form of an epidemic to the people of Blathur in Irukkur firka, Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar;

(*b*) if so, what action was taken on the same; and

(*c*) whether this Government have received any directive instruction or advice from the Central Government with regard to the same?

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) Under instructions from the Director of Public Health, the Regional Nutrition Health Officer, Sholavandan, visited the village and carried out an investigation. He has reported that the disease is not primarily due to deficiency in diet. The local opinion is that it is due to the use of polluted water of the tanks. However, at the request of the Director of Public Health, the Director of Medical Services has asked the District Medical Officer, Malabar, to depute an experienced eye doctor to visit the village and send a report.

" (*c*) No, Sir."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, whether it is due to the defect of the water that is used or deficiency in food, it is a fact that the inhabitants of the locality are losing their eyesight. Will the Government see that proper, suitable and effective steps are taken to prevent the further spread of this disease and also see that those who are already affected are cured of the malady? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That is the reason why an Eye Specialist is being sent there."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Sir, may I know the medical term that is used for this eye disease and whether this eye disease is peculiar only to that place or is it prevalent in other places also? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" From the report of the Health Officer, it seems to be what is called ' Trachoma '. It is not an eye disease peculiar to that place. It seems to have been there for the last 50 years."

* 927 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" This question will be taken up at the end of the question hour, as requested by the hon. Member Sri Kalyanasundram."

Amendments to the Madras Educational Rules.

* 804 *Q.*—

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member, Sri Krishna Ayyar is not in his seat. The answer will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representations from the South Indian Teachers' Union regarding the amendments to the Madras Educational Rules brought about by the Government recently, viz., to rules 98 (*b*) and 154 of the Madras Educational Rules; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?